

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 DODE-00

INR-05 CIAE-00 SAB-01 IO-03 SP-02 L-01 RSC-01 /042 W

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P R 101427Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6453

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0044

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, IS, SY, LE, UN

SUBJ: UNDOF COVERAGE OF DEMILITARIZED ZONE: LEBANESE BORDER
SITUATION

1. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUERY RELIABLE UNTSO SOURCE TOLD US JAN 10 THAT ISRAEL-SYRIA DEMILITARIZED ZONE NOW MANNED BY ABOUT 400 TROOPS AT ANY ONE TIME. HE CONSIDERED THIS VERY SATISFACTORY AND BELIEVED PARTIES ALSO SATISFIED. HE INDICATED THERE HAD BEEN SOME COMPLAINT FROM BOTH SIDES SOME MONTHS AGO WHEN ONLY ABOUT 100 TROOPS PRESENT IN ZONE, NUMBER HE AGREED WAS INADEQUATE, BUT SITUATION SINCE CORRECTED. HE ALSO TOLD US DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY ABOUT TRANSFER OF UNDO HQ FROM DAMASCUS TO KUNEITRA, WHICH HE THOUGHT MOST DESIRABLE. AT PRESENT THERE ARE USUALLY ONLY THREE UNDOF OFFICERS AND ONE FROM UNTSO WHO SHARE OFFICE IN KUNEITRA, AND ALL BUT ROUTINE MATTERS MUST BE REFERRED TO DAMASCUS. HE THOUGHT IF MOVE OF HEADQUARTERS AGREED IT MIGHT TAKE PLACE AS EARLY AS WITHIN FOUR TO SIX WEEKS.

2. UNDOF ABANDONED HIGHEST INSTALLATION ON MT. HERMON WHEN
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WEATHER MADE OPERATIONS UNTENABLE BUT COVERAGE OF ZONE OTHER-

WISE GOOD, SOURCE SAID. (PRIOR OCT. 1973 UNTSO OP IN SAME AREA WAS ROUTINELY CLOSED DURING WINTER.) HE NOTED NEXT SPRINGSITUATION SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS YEAR MIGHT RECUR, WHEN PARTIES TRY TO BEAT EACH OTHER TO TOP. ROADS ON HERMON ARE DISINTEGRATING AND WILL HAVE TO BE REBUILT IN SPRING. WHOLE GOLAN FRONT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY QUIET AND SOURCE THOUGHT WOULD SO REMAIN IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THAT WEATHER NOW MAKES WAGING WAR VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

3. SOURCE ALSO SAID WHOLE ISRAEL-LEBANESE BORDER VERY QUIET SINCE JAN 3, ALTHOUGH ONE FEDAYEEN RAID WOULD PROBABLY SET THINGS OFF AGAIN. HE HAD TRAVELLED ENTIRE LENGTH OF BORDER ON PATROL ROAD ALONG ISRAELI SIDE JAN 9 AND FOUND ISRAELI FENCING, MINE FIELDS, SENSORS, ETC. AS EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING INCURSIONS AS COULD PROBABLY BE DEvised. GIVEN EXTREMELY ROUGH TERRAIN HE THOUGHT SOME INFILTRATION COULD STILL TAKE PLACE BUT WOULD BE DETECTED AFTER FACT.

4. UNTSO WAS NOT AWARE, SOURCE SAID, OF ANY UNUSUAL INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FEDAYEEN IN LEBANON OR IN NEW EQUIPMENT FROM SYRIA. HE SAID UNMOS HAVE SEEN FEDAYEEN FIRE SAM-7 S BUT CANNOT CONFIRM FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATION REPORTS THAT THEY ALSO POSSESS SAM-6'S.

5. LEBANESE AND ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN MEETING RELATIVELY FREQUENTLY AT ROSH HANIKRA, SOURCE TOLD US. MEETING WAS TAKING PLACE JAN 10, PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS IDF SOLDIER CAPTURED EARLY THIS MONTH DURING CROSEE-BORDER ANTI-FEDAYEEN RAID. THESE MEETINGS CONTINUE TO BE ARRANGED THROUGH UNTSO; UNTSO REP DOES NOT ATTEND BUT LEBANESE AND, TO LESSER EXTENT ISRAELIS, USUALLY BRIEF UNTSO ON PROCEEDINGS.
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